



November 20, 2013

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2184 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Whitfield:

On behalf of the Alliance to Prevent the Abuse of Medicines, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your leadership efforts to address our nation's prescription drug abuse epidemic.

H.R. 3528, The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2013 (NASPER) is a critical piece of legislation providing grants to states to enhance their prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). We strongly support this legislation and urge its swift passage through Congress with bipartisan, bicameral support. In addition, we strongly support full funding of this vital legislation in FY 2014.

PDMPs, of all programs to address the abuse of prescription drugs, represent the cornerstone health care tool to solving this public health dilemma by allowing early identification of at-risk patients and timely intervention to prevent prescription drug abusers from succumbing to criminal activity and consequently, reliance on public systems such as Medicaid or state block grant programs. Moreover, adequately funded PDMPs are the solution to helping states fight this epidemic. Accordingly, states must be provided full funding, as outlined in the NASPER Reauthorization legislation, to establish or significantly improve implemented PDMPs in four key areas: 1) information needs to be as comprehensive as possible; 2) information needs to be as current as possible, with states moving to "real time", 3) data must be linked to electronic health records, and 4) data must be collected and evaluated to determine what is effective.

By way of background, the Alliance to Prevent the Abuse of Medicines is a non-profit partnership of key stakeholders in the prescription drug supply chain, including manufacturers, distributors, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacies, and physicians, that have joined together to develop and offer policy solutions aimed at addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic. The mission of the Alliance is to raise awareness of the issue of prescription drug abuse, partner with legislators to craft achievable solutions, and serve as a resource for policymakers. As the only coalition focused on this issue that includes representation across the domestic pharmaceutical supply chain, the Alliance brings a comprehensive perspective to addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

We look forward to serving as a resource to you and to the House Energy and Commerce Committee as the NASPER legislation moves through the reauthorization process, and again, would like to express our strong support for this important step in addressing the public health epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Prevent the Abuse of Medicines

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health